Stealing Taxes and the Life That Cannot Come from God

The righteous God does not tolerate hidden sin. Achan was not merely a man who made a mistake — he became a symbol of iniquity stubbornly kept. The death sentence did not come only for the act, but for his refusal to bring it into the light. God demanded that the sin be brought out, judged, and removed so His presence could return to the people.

The wages of sin is death, as the apostle Paul says: “For the wages of sin is death…” (Romans 6:23)

Robbery, as a form of iniquity, is not merely a violation of human rights — it is an abomination in God’s eyes. It draws divine judgment because it undermines justice, dignity, and the moral order established by the Creator.

Tax theft excludes the life of God, for righteousness cannot dwell together with robbery. The two are incompatible — just as light cannot coexist with darkness. The new life in God requires deep transformation, a separation from the works of darkness, and a sincere cleaving to justice.

Where extortion is practiced, there is no life from God, but death—for there lawlessness reigns, not righteousness. This divine hatred toward extortion and iniquity is not mere moral disapproval, but a spiritual condemnation. It shows that God cannot be associated with injustice, and that those who live in dishonesty separate themselves from His character. Unjust gain is not merely an ethical issue; it is a direct offense against the holiness of God.

Before people it may seem like success, but before God it is folly: a life built on injustice cannot be blessed—it is an unwise choice that ignores spiritual and moral consequences. For the one who does such things, it is a snare leading to death. Scripture warns: “As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool.” (Jeremiah 17:11)

If someone, even under conditions of poverty, works without legal forms and evades taxes, he directly and explicitly violates the law of Christ. The Lord Jesus taught us to be ready to give to him that asketh, not to hide; not to resist the one who would take from us, but even to offer more than he demands. He says: “And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh

away thy goods ask them not again.” (Luke 6:29–30)

This principle expresses an attitude of transparency and submission to what is right, not of evasion or concealment. To work under the table and refuse to contribute to the common good by nonpayment of taxes contradicts the spirit of the Gospel and the righteous character of Christ.

We can easily observe that these commands in Luke 6 were given in an extremely difficult historical context: the Jews lived under Roman occupation, and Roman soldiers had legal authority to demand goods, taxes, or even forced labor from the local population.

The Lord Jesus did not tell His disciples to revolt, but taught them to respond with a submissive heart in accordance with His commands. This attitude of voluntary submission and surrendering of rights reflects the values of those who belong to the Kingdom of God.

In the same line of teaching, we find His command: “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s…” (Matthew 22:21). The apostle Paul reinforces this principle, saying: “Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due…” (Romans 13:7). This command is not an exception, but a logical continuation of the principle of not resisting him that takes by force, but of living in submission to our Master.

In its historical context, paying tribute expressed submission to an often unjust authority — yet one ordained by God. In contrast, today’s taxes no longer carry the character of tribute, but represent a responsible contribution to the common good, returning to us in the form of infrastructure, medical care, and other public services.

Working “off the books,” practiced as a way of life, is not merely an occasional mistake but a continual sin — a deliberate choice to live in dishonesty and disobedience to authorities. This reveals a heart that has not been searched by the Holy Spirit and has not understood the call to a life of integrity.

To claim to live daily with the righteous God as Father, while keeping this sin in your life, is a blatant lie. God does not make His dwelling where iniquity reigns. He is holy, and His presence cannot be invoked merely as a declaration — it must be confirmed by a pure life.

After being born of God, the Holy Spirit is given as a continual presence in the believer’s life. The Lord Jesus said: “…and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.” (Matthew 28:20) This promise is valid for those who live in obedience

and purity. The Holy Spirit does not remain indifferent to sin, but works actively for our cleansing and sanctification.

A practical example: a man who has been born again and commits a dishonest act — such as using a company vehicle for personal purposes, without the employer's permission — will be convicted in his conscience.

Though the act may seem minor or justifiable, the Holy Spirit will make him aware that it is a form of injustice. This conviction is not mere human guilt, but the work of the Holy Spirit, who convinces the soul of sin. He does not merely convict, but also leads toward repentance and the correction of wrong — through acknowledgment of the act and fair compensation for the service misused. The Spirit does not accept compromise; He leads a person into the light, into truth, and into cleansing.

Therefore, refusing to pay taxes is not merely a legal violation, but a rejection of Christ's commands in Luke 6:29 and Matthew 22:21. This rejection of the Word — which is the seed of God (Luke 8:11) from which the new life should begin — shows that the new birth from God, which takes place only if we receive Him gladly (John 1:12), has not occurred. Scripture shows us that the Holy Spirit is given to cause this seed to germinate in the heart. Yet the Spirit's work is not automatic; it requires an open and obedient heart.

Where there is no obedience to Christ's commands — even in seemingly "small" matters such as paying taxes — it is a sign that the Spirit is not bringing forth the sprouting of a new life. Not because He lacks power, but because the seed finds hard, beaten ground where it cannot take root — a hardened heart that rejects it.

This post is an excerpt from the booklet "Life Lived in the Righteousness of Christ", which you can read in full, free of charge. More studies and resources for spiritual awakening are available at https://www.unmodifiedword.com.